IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0025] of the published patent application as follows:

In one embodiment, a Service Policy Director is transparent by being placed on a path of network traffic, between users and an access server to the authentication server. FIG. 1(a) illustrates message monitoring by a Service Policy Director 104 as described in the first embodiment. In this first embodiment, a Service Policy Director 104 functions as a transparent switch. A Service Policy Director 104 is placed on a path between a user 100 through a service provider network 102 and an access server 103 and an authentication server 106, and receives and forwards messages sent by a user 100 destined for an authentication server 106. The Service Policy Director 104 receives and parses a response message sent by the authentication server, to obtain the identification and service attribute information of the user and then forwards these messages without making any changes to their contents.

Please amend paragraph [0026] of the published patent application as follows:

In another embodiment, a Service Policy Director is configured as a proxy, such that all user authentication requests are sent to the Service Policy Director, rather than to an authentication server. The Service Policy Director will then query an authentication server for each of the user's identification and attribute information, and finally forward the response from the authentication server to the appropriate user. In FIG. 1(b), a user 108 sends messages through a service network provider 110 and an access server 111 directly to a Service Policy Director 112. The Service Policy Director 112 then redirects the user's messages to an authentication server 114. When the authentication server 114 responds, the Service Policy Director receives

and parses a response message sent by the authentication server, to obtain the identification and service attribute information of the user and then forwards the response directly to the user 108.

Please amend paragraph [0027] of the published patent application as follows:

In yet another embodiment, a user's authentication messages are copied by an additional network device (e.g., a switch), and passed to a passively listening Service Policy Director. In FIG. 1(c), from user 116 through service provider network 118 and access server 119 network traffic is copied to a Service Policy Director 120 while traffic is in transit over a network. The Service Policy Director 120 monitors copied traffic for user authentication requests and authentication server responses. Finally, the Service Policy Director parses copied message traffic to obtain identification and service attribute information of users 116 on the network. In each embodiment, a Service Policy Director monitors authentication message communication and stores user's identity and service attributes associated with each user in its internal User Policy Table 210.